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(c) how the Government propose to remove the inequality, if any, in the actual working out of the general cut in salaries?

A.—(*a*), (*b*) & (*c*) The whole matter is under the consideration of Government and they are not in a position to make any announcement at present. An announcement will be made as soon as final decisions are reached.

Proposals regarding retrenchment.

* 496 *Q.*—Mr. K. A. Nachiyappa Goundar: Will the hon. the Member for Finance be pleased to state—

(*a*) when the Retrenchment Committee is expected to conclude their sittings and finish their labours;

(*b*) what the probable amount will be that can be saved after effecting these retrenchments;

(*c*) whether there is any proposal to cut the salaries of officers; and

(*d*) if so, on what scale, and in what order?

A.—(*a*) The hon. Member is referred to the answer to clause (*b*) of Question No. 494.

(*b*) The hon. Member is referred to the answer to Question No. 345-A.

(*c*) & (*d*) The hon. Member is referred to the answer to Question No. 495.

Recommendations of the Retrenchment Committee.

*497 Q.—Mr. Basheer Ahmed Sayeed: Will the hon. the Member for Finance be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government will place before the Council the recommendations of the Retrenchment Officer and the Retrenchment Committee and the decisions of the Government thereon before the same are given effect to; and

(*b*) what is the procedure the Government propose to follow in this matter?

A.—(*a*) & (*b*) The attention of the hon. Member is invited to the reply to Question No. 345-A in which full answer has been given.

Mr. Sami Venkatachalam Chetti:—"May I ask the Government whether all the retrenchment proposals will be placed before the Members of this House to enable them to make their suggestions to the Members of the Retrenchment Committee before the latter meet to consider them?"

The hon. Mr. H. G. Stokes:—"I have already said that the suggested procedure would practically mean that we have to place every item before this House. That is not practical. If that is to be done, we will never get the retrenchment proposals completed in time."

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Mr. Sami Venkatachalam Chetti :—" May I know from the hon. Member in what time it will be possible for him to decide on the question of percentage cut ? "

The hon. Mr. H. G. Stokes :—" The matter is not for the Retrenchment Committee. It is for the Government to decide. "

Mr. Sami Venkatachalam Chetti :—" May I know how long it will take for the Government to decide ? "

The hon. Mr. H. G. Stokes :—" I cannot prophesy. "

Mr. Basheer Ahmed Sayeed :—" May I know whether this 10 per cent cut that was announced the other day by His Excellency the Governor does not affect the lower officers ? Is it not a real hardship to those who are drawing less than Rs. 200 or 300, because those who draw more will have to undergo a surrender or only 3 or 4 per cent of their salaries roughly, excluding the income-tax? "

The hon. Mr. H. G. Stokes :—" I must ask for notice of that question. I am not aware whether His Excellency referred to a general 10 per cent cut. The 10 per cent cut that he referred to was with reference to his own salary, and that of Members of the Government."

Mr. Sami Venkatachalam Chetti :—" May I know if the question of percentage cuts of salaries was discussed by the Retrenchment Committee ? "

The hon. Mr. H. G. Stokes :—" It was discussed by the Retrenchment Committee. "

Mr. Sami Venkatachalam Chetti :—" Was any recommendation made by them ? "

The hon. Mr. H. G. Stokes :—" Yes, Sir. "

Mr. Sami Venkatachalam Chetti :—" May I know what is the percentage suggested by them? "

The hon. Mr. H. G. Stokes :—" The Retrenchment Committee made general suggestions that there should be cuts ranging from 1 to 7 per cent. "

Mr. Abdul Hameed Khan :—" Does the hon. Member think that 10 per cent cut is sufficient ? "

The hon. Mr. H. G. Stokes :—" Quite sufficient. "

Rao Bahadur T. A. Ramalingam Chettiyar :—" Is it inclusive or exclusive of income-tax? "

The hon. Mr. H. G. Stokes :—" I must ask for notice. "

Budget deficit during the current year.

*498 *Q.*—Mr. Basheer Ahmed Sayeed :—Will the hon. the Member for Finance be pleased to state—

(*a*) the total amount of deficit likely to arise in the budget estimates for the whole of the current year, and how it is distributed under each head of revenue;